

Five District 88 students receive art scholarships

During its May 9 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education named five students as recipients of the District 88 Art Scholarship for the 2021-22 school year.

The recipients include from Addison Trail, juniors Stephanie Ortiz and Leslye Saavedra; and, from Willowbrook, senior Aaron Ball, freshman Nina Young and senior Katrina Berzinch.

The students' pieces will be displayed in the District 88 Boardroom during the 2022-23 school year. The District 88 Art Scholarship was established to recognize outstanding art students at Addison Trail and Willowbrook. The District 88 administration and Board of Education continue the tradition of supporting the arts and acknowledging the artistic successes of students in the district.



Pictured is Junior Leslye Saavedra, a student from Addison Trail High School who was recently awarded a District 88 Art Scholarship. On the right is her artwork called "Sunflower."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

These students from Willowbrook High School were recently awarded District 88 Art Scholarships. They are: senior Aaron Ball (pictured far left) and in the right photo, freshman Nina Young is pictured left and senior Katrina Berzinch is on the right.



Stephanie Ortiz, a Junior at Addison Trail, was recently honored at a District 88 School Board meeting with a District 88 Art Scholarship. Her creation is titled "Torn Asunder."



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MEMBER FDIC

Warriors close in on conference title

Thrilling 11-inning win over Hinsdale South helps Willowbrook edge closer to the WSGC championship

STAFF REPORT

The Willowbrook baseball team won two of three games in last week's hard-fought West Suburban Gold Conference series against Hinsdale South. The Warriors completed the series by beating the Hornets 4-2 in an 11-inning battle in Darien on May 12.

That victory gave the Warriors a conference record of 12-3 and put them in good position to win sole possession of the conference title.

Willowbrook will complete its conference season with this week's three-game series against Proviso East. If the Warriors win the series against the Pirates, they will lock up the conference title.

Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 21-4 with Saturday's 7-6 non-conference win over Hersey in Villa Park.

The Warriors are the No. 2 seed in the IHSA Class 4A South Elgin Sectional. Willowbrook will open the post-season at the Schaumburg Regional with a game against Schaumburg on May 25. If the Warriors win that game, they will face Glenbard East or York in the regional championship game on May 28.

Willowbrook opened last week's series against Hinsdale South with a 5-3 road victory on May 9. Senior Max Vaisvila pitched six and two-thirds innings for the Warriors, allowing seven hits and two earned runs. He struck out 13 batters and gave up two walks.

Junior Aidan Pieniasek took the mound and earned a save by recording the final out in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Vaisvila went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in the opening game of the series with Hinsdale South. Junior Joey Tumilty went 2-for-4 and scored one run.

Hinsdale South won the second game of the series, beating Willowbrook 4-2 in Villa Park on May 10. Senior Jacob Skinner pitched six innings for the Warriors. He allowed four hits, one earned run and three walks. Skinner struck out 10 Hinsdale South batters.

Sophomore Dayne Meyer pitched the first four and one-third innings for Willowbrook in the series finale against Hinsdale South. Meyer allowed six hits and one earned run. Junior Alex Chaitin pitched the next five and two-third innings for the Warriors.

Chaitin didn't allow any runs. He gave up two hits and struck out 10 batters without issuing a walk.

Senior Jacob Kutella took the mound in the bottom of the 11th inning. He held the Hornets scoreless while allowing one hit. Kutella struck out three batters.

"There was great pitching by both sides, and there were some amazing plays by both teams," said Willowbrook coach Vic Wisner of the series finale against the Hornets. "It really was a great game."

The Warriors trailed Hersey 5-2 through four and one-half innings of Saturday's game. Willowbrook scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to take a 6-5 lead. Hersey scored one run in the top of the sixth inning. The Warriors scored what turned out to be the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning. Sophomore Aiden Baerenklau walked, stole second and advanced to third on an error. Moments later, he scored on a sacrifice fly by Chaitin.



Sophomore Aiden Baerenklau of the Willowbrook baseball team is pictured while sliding safely into home plate during the bottom of the sixth inning of Saturday's non-conference game against Hersey in Villa Park. Baerenklau scored on a sacrifice fly by junior Alex Chaitin to break a 6-6 tie. The Warriors went on to beat Hersey 7-6. Willowbrook improved its overall season record to 21-4 with the victory. Earlier in the week, the Warriors won two of three games in their West Suburban Gold Conference series against Hinsdale South to improve their conference record to 12-3. The Warriors, who are in first place in the conference standings, will finish the West Suburban Gold season with this week's three-game series against Proviso East. Willowbrook will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season at the Schaumburg Regional. If the Warriors beat Schaumburg in a regional semifinal on May 25, they will advance to the regional championship game against either Glenbard East or York on May 28.

Junior Colin Slivka pitched four

innings in relief and earned the win for Willowbrook on Saturday. Slivka allowed two hits, two runs and two walks. He struck out four batters. The Warriors will complete their

conference season with this week's series against Proviso East. Willowbrook will wrap up its regular season with this Friday's non-conference game at Lincoln-Way West.



A great week for the Warriors

The Willowbrook softball team won three straight West Suburban Gold Conference games last week to improve to 13-7 overall and 7-3 in conference play. The Warriors opened the week with a 1-0 win over Leyden in Rosemont on May 9. Two days later, Willowbrook beat Addison Trail 10-1 in Villa Park. The Warriors closed the week with a 6-0 home victory over Morton on May 13. One photo from last week's win over Addison Trail shows freshman Sonia Ruchala (No. 51 - above left) arriving at home plate after smashing a two-run homer in the third inning. The Warriors scored all 10 of their runs against the Blazers during the third inning. Ruchala's homer gave the Warriors an 8-1 lead. Senior Grace Hayes gave the Warriors a 2-1 lead when she hit a two-run double earlier in the inning. Moments later, freshman Hannah Kenny hit a three-run homer to push Willowbrook's lead to 5-1. Another photo from

the third-inning rally shows junior Kayleigh Dennison (above right) connecting for a double. Dennison later scored on a two-run single by Hayes, who drove in four runs in the inning. Senior pitcher Caitlyn Kulczynski earned victories for the Warriors in all three of last week's wins. Kulczynski recorded nine strikeouts and allowed three hits against Leyden. She gave up four hits and struck out 10 batters against Addison Trail. Kulczynski piled up 15 strikeouts while allowing two hits in Friday's win over Morton. Willowbrook will finish its regular season with this week's conference games against Hinsdale South and Proviso East, along with Friday's non-conference game against Hinsdale Central and Saturday's non-conference doubleheader at Glenbard East. The Warriors will open the IHSA Class 4A post-season with a game against Hinsdale Central at the Lyons Township Regional on May 24.

CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Glowiak Hilton champions Illinois law to deter organized retail crime

To support retailers, update prosecuting resources and promote statewide economic growth, the governor signed a measure into law recently led by State Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton to curb organized retail crime and hold ringleaders accountable.

"Organized retail crimes across the state have disturbed residents, wreaked havoc on businesses and stunted growth within local economies," said Glowiak Hilton (D-Western Springs). "By advancing the Organized Retail Crime Act, Illinois is enacting one of the most comprehensive crime-curbing efforts in the nation."

In partnership with the Illinois Retail Merchants Association and Illinois Attorney General, Glowiak Hilton's law codifies organized retail crime into statute as the theft of retail merchandise with the intent to sell.

Under the law, prosecutors have new opportunities to bring charges against ringleaders regardless of where the crimes takes place. For example, if the conspiracy, theft and selling occurred in different jurisdictions, each jurisdiction now has the ability to prosecute the entire crime. The attorney general can also prosecute via a statewide grand jury.

"The law targets individuals stealing for profit, not anyone engaging in petty shoplifting," Glowiak Hilton said. "Deterring retail crime starts with supporting law enforcement, holding ringleaders responsible and making it tougher to resell stolen goods."

To prevent stolen goods from being sold online, the law also creates the Integrity, Notification and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act, or the INFORM Act, to require third-party sellers to verify users' identity with bank account numbers or other personal identifying information. Sellers who do not comply may be suspended.

Filed under House Bill 1091, most provisions in the new law take immediate effect, but the INFORM Act is effective Jan. 1, 2023.

(Editor's note: This was received from the office of State Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton.)

Two students awarded David Koch scholarship Calzante, WB's Kuban honored at School Board meeting

During its May 9 meeting, the District 88 Board of Education named Addison Trail senior Vincent Calzante and Willowbrook senior Alex Kuban as the recipients of the David Koch/Board of Education Scholarship for the 2021-22 school year.

Since spring 1984, the David Koch/Board of Education Scholarship has been given in honor

of former District 88 Superintendent Dr. David F. Koch Jr. Koch retired as superintendent in June 1983 and completed 35 years of service to the district. He also was the first principal of Addison Trail.

Scholarship recipients are chosen from the 18 students named as 88's Best during the school year. The District 88 Board of Education and

administration created the 88's award to highlight students' success. That award recognizes nine Addison Trail and nine Willowbrook students each school year for reaching 1 personal best in one of the following areas: academics, highly improved performance, extracurricular activities, service work or performing electives.

Elmhurst Hospital extends straight-A streak in Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades

Elmhurst Hospital has maintained its straight-A streak in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades with an A in the Spring 2022 edition of the Grades. Elmhurst Hospital is one of only three hospitals in Illinois and 22 in the country to receive an A in all 21 grading periods since the program began in Spring 2012.

Edward Hospital in Naperville earned a B. Edward and Elmhurst Hospitals are part of the Edward-Elmhurst Health system. To see details, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

"We're able to maintain the straight-A streak because every person in the organization is a safety leader,

everybody is involved in providing safe care to our patients," said Pamela Dunley, president & CEO, Elmhurst Hospital. "We're very proud to be among the few hospitals remaining on the straight-A list, but most importantly, it's an indication to our community that there is no safer place for their healthcare than Elmhurst Hospital."

The extension of the straight-A streak in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades is one of several honors, awards and recognitions related to quality and safety Elmhurst Hospital has achieved recently:

- In 2020 and 2021, Fortune/IBM Watson Health named Elmhurst Hospital to its list of 100 Top Hospitals in the U.S. Elmhurst Hospital was ranked No. 1 in the Large Community Hospitals category.

- Elmhurst Hospital earned the Healthgrades 2021 Outstanding Patient Experience Award (top 10 percent of U.S. hospitals).

- In 2021, Elmhurst Hospital named as one of Healthgrades' America's 100 Best Hospitals for Car Care.

- Elmhurst Hospital was named U.S. News & World Report's 2021 list of Best Hospitals for Maternal Care.

- Elmhurst Hospital achieved recognition in 2020 as a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center original designation was in 2015.


- Elmhurst Hospital's Emergency Department was named a 2020 recipient of the Emergency Nurses Association Lantern Award.

- Elmhurst Hospital earned five in the 2021 Centers for Medicare Medicaid Services Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings.

- To learn more about patient safety and quality of care at Elmhurst Health, visit EEHealth.about-us/awards.

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You can watch them on our Website or on Facebook.
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It's good to see so many pro-choice demonstrators in Chicago and across the country rally to stand up for a woman's right to choose. We need to keep the pressure on these extreme ultra MAGA Supreme Court justices who want to overturn Roe v. Wade.

A big round of applause for the United States Postal Service. Not. I mailed a birthday card for our granddaughter, returned as "undeliverable." Mailed a card to our daughter. Another daughter mailed a box. It showed it was delivered. A week later we still don't have it. The post office says it was delivered to the wrong address. Really! They can't find the package still. The postal service is a joke.

I saw this interesting meme on a friend's Facebook page: "We went from 'stick that needle in everyone's arm' to 'my body, my choice' real quick." We certainly did.

I read Deb Conroy's reaction to the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade (May 12 issue). She calls the Supreme Court extremist. Talk about the pot calling the kettle black with regard to being extremist. Try looking up Ms. Conroy's extreme voting

record on abortion sometime. She has a 0% rating by Illinois Right to Life, so that should tell you something.

This week's truism: A word wound cannot be healed by constantly picking the scab. Racism will not go away by constantly labeling groups and people as racists.

No signs of any kind are allowed on any public land, parkways included, in Lombard or Villa Park. I live on a corner and regularly pull them out and trash them. You can do the same, even if it's not "your" parkway. It's public land. No political or private signs of any kind are allowed. They are only allowed on private property where the owner has given permission. It's bad enough that we have to put up with nuisance calls from politicians and private companies; we don't have to look at their signs!

Progressive Christianity interprets the Bible through the lens of culture. It does not critique the culture through the lens of the Bible.

Okay, President Biden, swallow your pride and open up the pipeline and restore America like it was.

Thank you.

The president and his cronies say they are working on the baby formula shortage, but this has been snowballing since February so that is all talk and no action. I'll believe it when I see it. If you have formula or samples to share, please help a mom who needs it. And please don't be like those toilet paper and hand sanitizer hoarders when the pandemic began. I know, you worry about having enough to feed your baby, but by stockpiling, that puts someone else's baby at risk. However, if you are selfish enough to grab all you can, then you probably don't care about another mother's anxiety over being able to feed her baby; and a baby not getting enough to eat. Can you live with that, or for you is it survival of the fittest?

Don't expect President Biden to curb inflation. The only thing he can curb is an ice cream truck.

Wow, is the mail system getting that bad that I'm getting something from River Grove in my mailbox

for a name that's not even close to mine, and the street's not even close to mine and it's an apartment building? That's pretty sad for the bank because it's a credit union statement and I feel bad for this guy. I put it back out to the mailbox, but that's pretty awful that our mail system is that bad. Thank you.

Hey Democrats, your Disinformation Governance Board will backfire on you. Shutting up Americans that you disagree with can only work in the short-run. In the long run, you will be exposed for the authoritarians that you are.

Funny how stupid the leader of Illinois thinks we are. They pay lip service and no action to everything. Illinois pension funds are still invested in Russian assets as innocent people are being slaughtered.

When voting for DuPage County Board members, take a quick look at how much the average taxpayer pays in taxes in Cook County. Keep voting blue and that is where we are heading. Move to Crook County if you

want to vote blue.

On March 31 Biden announced the release of one million barrels of oil a day from the strategic reserves for 180 days. This is to help lower inflation and the price of gas. Since that time, April had record inflation of 8.3 percent and the price of gas is now \$4.89! What a great plan.

I've heard Lori Lightfoot say that Chicago will be an oasis for abortion if Roe vs. Wade is overturned. Chicago continues to be an oasis for murder and crime under her leadership. Six killed and 18 wounded in Chicago the weekend of May 7-8. Eight killed and 25 wounded the weekend before. I guess this is the start of Lightfoot's "Summer of Joy."

Why do so many drivers not use their turn signals? It's one thing if there are no other cars around, but when there are other cars at your intersection, please signal so others do not wait and wonder what you are going to do. It's polite and it's the law.

Warriors compete at IHSA state meet

Gesicki and Rattana lose against the eventual state-champion duo

Seniors Becca Lopez Egan, Amelia Gesicki and Emma Rattana represented Willowbrook's badminton team at the IHSA state meet, which took place May 12-14 at Hinsdale South High School.

Lopez Egan played in the state meet's singles competition, while Gesicki and Rattana teamed up to compete in doubles action. The state meet featured 64 singles players and 64 doubles teams.

Lopez Egan opened the state meet with a first-round win. She then lost her second-round match. Lopez Egan moved to the consolation round. Her

tournament ended when she lost her first match in the consolation draw.

The duo of Gesicki and Rattana opened the state meet with a loss to a Stevenson duo that went on to win the state doubles title without dropping a game. Stevenson's state-winning doubles duo won six matches and earned seven team points to help Stevenson's lineup to a 16-point output

that secured the first-place team trophy at the state meet. Fremd placed second in the team results with 15.5 points, while Naperville North landed in third place with 15 points.

Gesicki and Rattana won one match in the consolation round. The Willowbrook tandem closed out the state meet with a loss in its next match.

Weder qualifies for state meet

Senior delivers a second-place finish in the 400-meter run at Lake Park Sectional

Willowbrook senior Lily Weder will compete in this week's IHSA Class 3A girls track and field state meet at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Weder earned her state-meet berth at the Lake Park Sectional, which took place on May 12 in Roselle. Weder delivered a second-place finish

in the 400-meter run at the sectional. She completed the one-lap race around the track in just over one minute, turning in a finishing time of 1:00.35.

The top two finishers in each sectional event, along with those who met qualifying standards, earned berths in the state meet.

VFW Post will conduct its Memorial Day ceremony on May 30

Service begins at 11 a.m.

Villa Park Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2801 will hold its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 30. The service will begin at 11 a.m. at Cortesi Veterans Me-

morial Park, 320 E. Kenilworth Ave. In the event of inclement weather, the service will take place indoors at the VFW post, which is located at 39 E. St. Charles Road.

Registration now open for '4 on the 4th' race/run in Elmhurst

The Elmhurst Running Club 4 on the 4th and Kids (ages 5-12) 1K are open for registration at 4on4th.com.

The 17th edition of the 4-mile run on the Fourth of July is at 7:15 a.m., Monday, July 4, with the Kids 1K at 8:20 a.m.

Both races start and finish on Prospect Ave. between Elmhurst University and Wilder Park.

The 4-mile goes through neigh-

borhoods and into City Centre before returning to the finish area. The Kids Race goes up and down Prospect.

"We're expecting a big turnout and urge runners to make their plans and register as soon as possible," race director Bob Richards of the Elmhurst Running Club said, adding that entry fees will increase on June 5.

See 4on4th.com for more information and to sign up.

Warriors close out regular season with a win over Leyden

Willowbrook moves to 13-5 overall and 4-2 in the WSGC

The Willowbrook girls soccer team finished its regular season with last week's 6-0 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Leyden. The Warriors improved to 13-5 overall and 4-2 in conference play with the May 9 victory over the Eagles.

Junior Kennedy Vannoy scored two of Willowbrook's goals in last week's win. Senior Rachael Klamecki, junior Molly Brennan, senior Brooke Vandergrift and senior Erin Fitzgibbon each provided one goal. Vandergrift tallied two assists. Vannoy also contributed a pair of assists, while Klamecki and senior Izzy Manning had one assist each.

Willowbrook is opening the IHSA Class 3A playoffs with this week's match against Reavis at the Lyons Township Regional. If the Warriors defeat Reavis, they will advance to the regional final on May 20. Willowbrook would likely meet Lyons Township in the regional final.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

State send-off

Willowbrook High School hosted a state send-off celebration last week for the two members of the school's boys gymnastics team who qualified for the IHSA state meet, which took place Friday and Saturday at Hoffman Estates High School. Willowbrook's two state qualifiers were (left to right) freshman Daniel Javier (floor exercises and still rings) and sophomore Peter Catania (vault). Neither Warrior advanced to Saturday's individual finals.

Calzante honored with Addison Trail's 88's Best honor

Vincent Calzante has been named as Addison Trail's December recipient of 88's Best recognition for his outstanding academic accomplishments. Calzante, a senior, was recognized during the Dec. 13 District 88 Board of Education meeting.

The transition from a small parochial school with a graduating class of just 14 students to a high school of almost 2,000 students was a big change, but Calzante found the drive to not just achieve academically, but to become a true Addison Trail Blazer.

Academic achievements

- Completed nine honors courses, and earned As in every one to date
- Completed 12 Advanced Placement (AP)/college-level courses, and earned As in every one to date

Involvement at Addison Trail

- Founder and Co-President of Future Medical Professionals (a club focused on providing opportunities for students interested in pursuing medical careers)
- National Honor Society (NHS) Board Member
- Italian Club Board Member
- Class of 2022 Historian
- Four-year member of the Boys Volleyball Team
- Member of Psychology Club
- Member of Math Team
- Member of Student Council
- Tutors other students through the AT Ambassador Resource

Community Involvement

- Participated in the Northwestern Medicine Discovery Program, which exposes students to a broad range of health care careers through activities such as tours, guest speakers, group discussion and hands-on projects
- Serves as a lifeguard and a swim instructor at a local park district

Future plans

Calzante plans to major in biochemistry and minor in creative writing. Post undergrad, Calzante plans to attend medical school or continue his interests in graduate school. He hopes to enroll at University of Michigan, his dream school since seventh grade, or University of Notre Dame.

Staff member comments

"Calzante is a top-notch young man, truly a shining star in and out of the classroom. Calzante is a fine, humble young man, who truly wants to make this world a better place, using his talents to help others. One example that stands out is when Calzante approached me during his sophomore year with the idea of initiating a tutoring program for athletes. While he was in the process of organizing this program, we started remote learning, so he then took the initiative to reach out to teachers/students and provide virtual peer tutoring support. He has helped many students better comprehend



Pictured here with Addison Trail Principal Jack Andrews (right) is Vincent Calzante who was honored at a District 88 School Board meeting as the recipient of 88's Best recognition at Addison Trail.

concepts in a variety of subjects, but particularly in the STEM field. Calzante would like to become a physician. He was accepted into a highly competitive program for high school students interested in the medical field through Northwestern. His passion for helping others, combined with his love for STEM and his analytical reasoning skills, make him a perfect fit for a career in medicine. I have no doubt in my mind Calzante will achieve his goal of becoming a physician, providing quality care to his patients from diverse backgrounds."

—Dana Marime, Counselor

"When I think of Calzante, I think of a person who is completely self-aware and holds himself accountable for his actions. It has been a privilege to have had Calzante in class for two years and to be his volleyball coach. He is resilient, driven and incredibly hardworking.

I appreciate Calzante's willingness to advocate for himself and his ability to communicate so effectively. In addition, he is a stellar writer, and I could ALWAYS rely on him to participate through Zoom last year. I am very proud of what he has been able to accomplish, and he is deserving of this recognition!"

—Jessica Clark, English teacher and boys volleyball team coach

"Calzante has impressed me with the quality of his work in AP Biology. His salient comments during discussion underlie a general thirst for knowledge and an ability to apply what he has learned to new situations and across concepts. He is a natural leader among his peers, and I have no doubt he will succeed in any endeavor he pursues."

—Carolyn Erwin, science teacher

"I've had the pleasure of knowing Vincenzo since he stepped foot into

Addison Trail! He is definitely gifted in a foreign language. He shows a great interest in Italian, and his appreciation and respect for diverse cultures is quite evident. His passion for expanding his ability to communicate with a wide variety of people is outstanding. A student like him is one in a million. Vincenzo is highly respectful of his fellow students, and he enjoys giving a helping hand when needed. He sets forth a great example for his classmates and for me. He is one of the kindest students I've had the pleasure of teaching. His kindness, combined with his drive, makes for a well-rounded individual. His leadership qualities are exceptional. I know I could count on him if I ever need assistance in class with volunteering a question or answer at any given moment. Vincenzo is worthy of this well-deserved award!"

—Judie Vitritti-Lynch, world language teacher

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Gomez, Ciaccia to speak at AHS graduation

Both won the school's annual speech competition

Addison Trail seniors Mateo Gomez (left) and Enzo Ciaccia will address nearly 500 of their classmates as the student graduation speakers during Addison Trail's 56th commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22.

Ciaccia and Gomez entered the school's annual graduation-speech competition and were selected as this year's winners by a panel of judges.

More about Enzo Ciaccia

Title of your speech: "The Value of Time"

Summary of your speech: "My speech is a nostalgic piece that focuses on reflection, using your time wisely and the importance of living in the moment."

Lessons/advice you hope to share with your peers through your speech:

"I hope my speech reminds my classmates that every moment has the possibility of becoming a memory. I hope they're inspired to stay present and to focus on what's going on now, right in front of us."

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2022?

"It's very exciting and special. I really wanted a final opportunity to be on the stage at Addison Trail, and this is an amazing way to close out my high school career."

Involvement at Addison Trail:

Founding member of the student news channel, AT News; Member of Theatre; Member of Italian Club; Member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee; President of Student Council; Member of the Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) program, which strives to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them.

How Addison Trail has supported you:

"The staff members at Addison Trail have taught me what I'm capable of achieving. They saw potential in me and helped me accomplish things I never thought possible. I'm incredibly thankful to my parents and all the staff at Addison Trail."

Your future plans:

"I plan to attend Indiana University Bloomington to pursue a major in business marketing and a minor in English. My goal is to then attend law school."

More about Mateo Gomez

Title of your speech: "AT ... Where Inclusivity Leads to Success"

Summary of your speech:

"My speech is about my personal journey and story and how Addison Trail and the Addison community provided opportunities and resources to help me reach my goals. I also discuss the true definition of success and what it really means."

Lessons/advice you hope to share with your peers through your speech:

"I hope my classmates see that being successful isn't about money or material items - it's about helping others and being the best version of yourself. I hope they're inspired that if I can get to where I am today, anyone can - all it takes is effort, responsibility and hard work."

What does it mean to you to be a speaker during the commencement ceremony and to represent the class of 2022?

"When I emigrated from Colombia and came to the U.S. at 13 years old as a freshman, I didn't speak any English and had to quickly adjust to a new language and culture. I remember watching a student speak during my freshman



Submitted photo Rock Valley Publishing
Pictured here are Addison Trail seniors Mateo Gomez (left) and Enzo Ciaccia, who will address almost 500 of their classmates during Addison Trail's 56th commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22. Both seniors won the school's annual graduation-speech, chosen by a panel of judges.

year and telling my English Learner (EL) teacher, "That's going to be me one day. I'm going to give a speech to my peers." And she responded, "I have no doubt you will." To reach that goal and to be named as one of the student graduation speakers means the world to me."

Involvement at Addison Trail:

Vice President of National Honor Society (NHS); Vice President of Student Council; Lieutenant Governor of Key Club; Founding member/host of the student news

channel, AT News; Member of Italian Club; Member of Theatre; Member of the Youth Equity Stewardship (YES!) program, which strives to prepare students to recognize and learn from the diversity around them; Honorary member of ATtribute (Addison Trail's yearbook); Co-captain of the Boys Soccer Team; Member of the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee.

How Addison Trail has supported you:

"I wouldn't be where I am or

who I am without all of the staff members at Addison Trail - from the teachers (especially my EL teachers), to the cafeteria workers to the maintenance crew. I also must thank God and my parents for their support."

Your future plans:

"I plan to attend Eimhurst University to pursue a double major in international business and business administration and a minor in finance. I also will play on the Men's Soccer Team and work at State Farm."

Coming events

Thursday, May 19 NASA's next great telescope with astro educator Michelle Nichols

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library or on Zoom, the James Webb Space Telescope will fundamentally alter our understanding of black holes, the early Universe, the life cycle of stars, planets, and more. Join us to learn more about this groundbreaking mission and the next giant leap in astronomy and space exploration. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Friday, May 20 • Craft times for littles

From 10-10:45 a.m. at the Addison Public Library, join us for drop-in crafts geared towards ages 2-5, but open to all ages. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

• Crafting for the Community Circle

From 10-11 a.m. at the Large

Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, join us for a crafting circle with a focus on donating to local organizations. We will be working on no-sew fleece blankets for Project Linus. Registration is required. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

• Digital converting: Tape cassette to MP3

From 1-2 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, learn how to use the Sound Studio's Ion Tape Express to convert cassette to MP3 files. This class will provide a demo of the equipment and the EZ Vinyl/Tape Converter software. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Saturday, May 21 Volunteer fair

From 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, representatives from several local organizations, as well as the library, will be on-hand to talk to you

about volunteer opportunities. Anyone interested in giving back to the community is encouraged to stop by to pick up information and ask questions! Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Monday, May 23 Talent acquisition and retention: how to find and keep great employees

From 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, join human resources management professor Jane Murtaugh to explore talent acquisition, recruiting and retention strategies for small and medium-size employers. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Tuesday, May 24 Computer basics: Mouse and keyboard

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, we'll help you learn to type faster and be more comfortable with

the keyboard and mouse. Instruction is bilingual, English/Spanish. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Wednesday, May 25 Hot topics roundtable

Starting at 7 p.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, if you're concerned about the direction the U.S. is heading, this program is for you. A librarian will introduce trending topics from foreign policy and social issues to the financial and legal system before leading a facilitated conversation. We want to encourage an understanding of people who think differently about the issues we face. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

Thursday, May 26 • Chair yoga

Starting at 10 a.m. at the Large Meeting Room of the Addison Public Library, certified yoga instructor Marti Lahood will guide you

through one of the gentlest forms of yoga. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

• Google basics: three-part series

Starting at 11 a.m. at the Adult Program Room of the Addison Public Library, if you have a Gmail account, you have access to a whole suite of Apps that can make your life easier. We will cover the basics, some tips and tricks, and how the Apps work well together. May 26: Calendar. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

• Build your professional brand

From 10-11 a.m. on Zoom via the Addison Public Library, in this Grow with Google workshop, you will learn how to develop your personal brand and use it to pursue your next job. Learn more at: addisonlibrary.org/events or call 630-543-3617.

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